THE JOURNAL

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Volume 1 Number 17

a journal of opinion

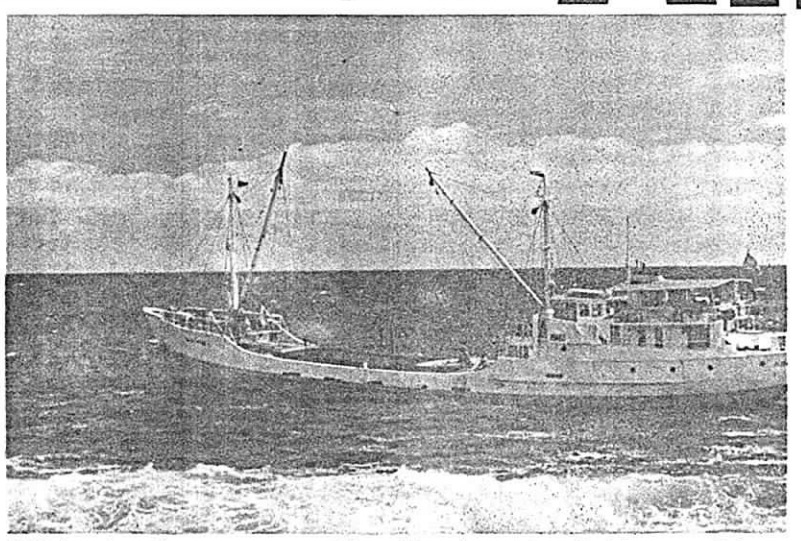
Independent

20–27 OCTOBER 1987

Pines in peril

Special report

IT'S DESPAIR!



"Shipping"...supposedly the heart of the problem

Silk $ Boyd's "MATAORA" (left). There was a time when she and her sister ship, plus regular international vessels used to be racing between islands twice a week in season to load, off-load and set sail again to cope with the booming pineapple crops in Mangaia and Atiu. No more! The JOURNAL looks into the catastrophic state of the Atiu pineapple industry.....

—IT'S A LINGERING DEATH

Atiu's pineapple industry is in a catastrophic decline....." So run the opening lines of a special JOURNAL report on the state of a primary production industry that a decade ago seemed to be providing permanent answers to the farmer's simple basic request of government and the outside world: "Tell me what to plant so that I can plant it, sell it and earn the family a living."

Today there exist only 24 acres of Atiu land under pineapple production.

Only two farmers remain who are bothering to keep the fertiliser schedule.

Can anything be done ? Is anything worth doing ?

AN IMPORTANT REPORT

INSIDE

Or are we just witnessing yet again the slow, lingering death throes of yet another in the endless other chapter in the endless saga of washed-up CIs. "schemes"?

LOOKING AHEAD

COLLEGE TO RE-OPEN?

Above: High quality CIs. Secondary education...and yet another crisis area in Education. Who is left to teach our childre ? Is the suggested re-opening of the TTC going to offer a solution ?

SEE Page 2

— INSIDE —

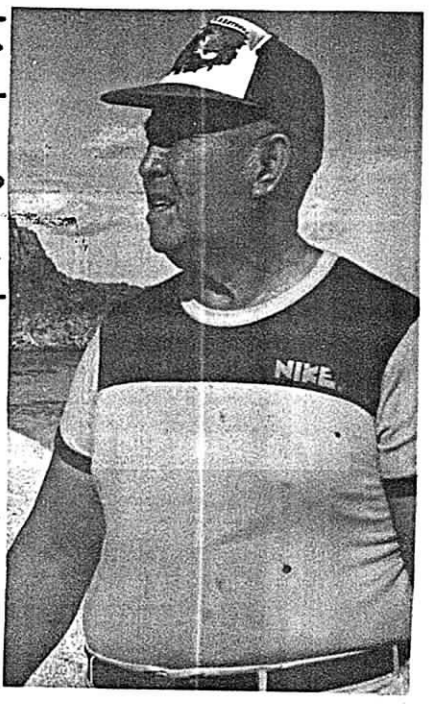
Editorial Comment

A fresh approach

It did not involve pauses in the VIP lounge. Nor did it involve an army of planners, bureacrats and public servants to set it up. There were next to no consultations, briefings, de-briefings or exploratory fact-finding missions.

But it WAS a trade mission and an Aid project.. ..all rolled into one man.

The JOURNAL reports on Palmerston's Bill Marsters (right) and the trip to NZ that left red tape scattered across land and ocean like kiddies' party streamers!



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Maybe new Education Minister Matepi Matepi should have got Tui to vet his speech script at the Opening of the Rarotonga Secondary Schools champs where he encouraged the kids to grow up to be "MP's, doctors, lawyers and farmers". Not teachers ? Just a few ? Ah well...maybe just an oversight. And, after all, most of them just end up MP's, anyway. And that's one of the nation's most overcrowded professions.....e pe ?

READERS SURVEY

Editorial

The JOURNAL's readership is steadily increasing. Obviously, this gives a lot of satisfaction to those of us who wondered whether the Cook Islands public really wanted to support a contentious journal of opinion attempting to dispense with the trivia of our national life and concentrate upon issues. Particularly, the issues which affect the lives of the ordinary citizen... education, health, local politics, small business, development etc. Apparently, quite a lot of people at home and overseas, do want to be offered the chance to think about our country and where it's heading.

We are especially gratfied to know that we have a very loyal and patient list of subscribers. Loyal because they believe that for all our deficiencies they are willing to back anything in the country which tries to add a bit more to the quality of national life.. Patient, because they are willing to give us time to improve and willing to hear views which we know do not necessarily match their own.

Above all, dear readers, at home and all round the Pacific now....we are, well, te ngakau parau nei matou, a little since you have all accorded us the standing of a "real" paper!

Kia toa.

"No, but seriously..."

The very well-placed Government source who indicated to us that Cabinet would be likely to give a favourable reception to proposals to re-open the Rarotonga Teachers' Training College issued the information with the same obvious sense of satisfaction and purpose that we expect will be its wide public reception.

After all, there's nothing to beat a bit of sound, fury and visible business when it comes to facing up to a very difficult problem.

All the more so when this particular bit of sound, fury and surface business is precisely the catch-all solution to education's problems advocated by the CIP's as their bit of sound, fury and visible busyness.

Hence, the proposal makes first-rate political sense. Take that, Ngere! Now go find yourself another platform!

It also offers further opportunities to sponge up the annual pool of unemployable (rendered unemployable because we haven't got the teaching expertise to make them employable!). All in all, the reasons for keeping the TTC closed are the same as were used to rationalise its closure ten years ago.

There's one simple solution to the current children's (not teachers') crisis. Get all the trained teachers of high quality (and there are plenty around) out from their planning administering, filing, clerking, overseas tripping, tourist entertaining alternatives to hard work and put them back in the classroom with Lower 3Z remedial to fill all manpower vacancies in computer accountancy with which the Tomonomic Miracle is flooding the nation!

The solution is simple. It's the addressing of it that offers some political problems. And the avoidance of THOSE is supposed to be the justification for having a coalition, ine ?

If that can't be done, then there really is no soultion , folks.

An' if it goes on... well, us poor white trash totin' dem bales down here on the plantation, we's gonna get even more revoltin' dan we already is, baas!

Lissen to de toon, up dere in de Mansion House. Dat ain't no darky spiritual. Dat's de honkies hummin' de Red Flag....and if de CITI President wants a copy of de speech, he can have one jus' as soon as he reports back home for duty!

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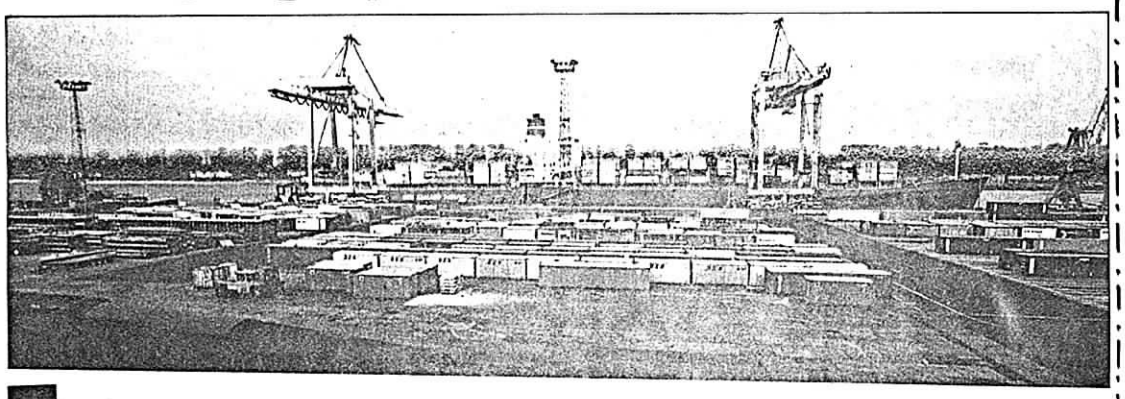
SILLY

A solution to the Chilren's Crisis was offered by an Atiu parent last week who told the J JOURNAL, "If they (departing graduate local teachers) measure their love of their children in money, then O.K. let the government pay them more."

As a responsible publication, we pointed out that this was not a solution but complete nonsense, possible grounds for sedition charges and wilful troublemaking.

The Fruit Of Their Labor



The inter-ocean container ship New Zealand Pacific unloads at the West German port of Hamburg. For all countries, transportation in the form of adequate shipping is a pre-requisite without which an export industry cannot be said to exist in reality. Through intensive re-structuring of its whole export process, New Zealand has enabled herself to survive both the early seventies oil crisis and its changed relationship with Europe. For NZ, transportation is but an integral part of a structured export trade. Unfortunately both as a colonial master and a trading partner, NZ has failed to assist the CIs. do the same.....the JOURNAL contends!

Atiu pineapple production is in catastrophic decline. There exist only 24 acres under pineapple production and only two growers are bothering to keep the fertiliser schedule.

This means that there will be few pineapples for export this year. Worse still, there will be little planting material for next year. Thus, we can foresee the passing of yet another agriculture crop in the long list of "why not try this?" schemes which have plagued the development of the industry throuout the years of self-government.

The Atiuan farmer has in the past made a strong commitment to promoting pineapples as a long-term investment worthy of the name of an "industry".

Going back over the two decades of serious pineapple growing, Atiuans point to such evidence of personal commitment as the time they paid $15,000 to get a visit from one of the NZ Shipping Co. vessels.

They also claim to have relied far less than other island industries in the country upon political lobbying.

And they don't blame politicians for their current problems. They look deeper but everywhere they turn their despair is increased at finding an answer.

It is believed that the market for Atiu pines still exists.

Certainly, FDL is no longer a monopoly and is no longer bound to take Pacific pineapples as it was in the past...and therein appears to lie a difficulty.

AUSTRALIA

At the time of the cancellation of the FDL monopoly, it was felt that ensuing competition would raise prices and increase Atiu's attractiveness as an exporter.

"The farmers were disappointed with prices at the time," is one official explanation for the cancellation of the monopoly which demanded that FDL take a quantity of Pacific pines.

"It was a mistake and the explanations were a lot of hot air!" is a claim heard these days whilst others offer despairing "we told you so" voices.

Today's reality is that FDL, being no longer bound to accept a Pacific pineapple quota, it gets its supplies from Australia and the Phillippines.

We can only compete by offering our pines at prices below those of Australia.

However, although not as much as used to be obtained, it is still felt reasonable at an FOB price of $5.75 plus packaging for a 12kgm carton. That is, 48c/kgm. Hence, one can state, by definition, the market is there still.

The price continues to offer the prospect of pineapples being a profitable crop.

MONTHLY

NOTE: By "profitable crop", farmers refer economically to a means of adding cash to the overall family budget. This is a special CIs. definition of "profit"!

The vital missing factor is "transportation". Whether it is useful or assists the solution of the problem to describe "transportation" or "shipping" as THE problem in itself is debatable.

What is indisputable is that, to many an Atiuan, the simplest and most readily observable problem is "shipping".

The NZ Shipping Co. has dropped the fortnightly service. It now offers a monthly service. Such a schedule creates extreme difficulty for the grower attempting to meet timetables for a perishable crop.

An alternative shipping service is offering promises of a new service. In the Cook Is., however, growers have learnt to treat promises with a time-worn sceptism.

Crops lined up for starch factories, papaya driers, canning factories, juicing factories and jam factories have all come a "cropper" through promises failing to be met.

The Atiu grower can hardly be blamed for no longer maintaining much faith in "promises".

So, in the light of this, what of the future ?

It is at this point, face to face with a problem for which neither his experience, nor his island culture nor his education, nor the institutions which exist to assist him, that the Atiuan grower begins to experience what we have chosen to describe as "despair".

UPS AND DOWNS

Why plant ? Why take on debts ? How does one proceed to fight for a dying industry ? Is it worth re-building ? Is there an alternative ?

Esta Comacho, UNV pineapple expert from the Phillipines, recruited to upgrade and advise on the quality of pineapple produce from Atiu...at a time when the industry is facing structural collapse!

The first conclusion a grower attempts to reach is that there must be answers somewhere in the past ?

Pineapples have been grown at a serious commercial level since 1972. Production and markets have had their ups and downs. Nevert-

(ctd...Page 4)

Catastrophe

Part of the function of the Press is to offer readers a complete and honest picture of the society it describes. Direct reporting, to many, seems the obvious method to fulfil this role. We believe though, that this is not enough. A catastrophe such as the predicted repeat of an age-old pattern of failure in our pineapple industry requires not just description but analysis that helps us all understand a little....

(from Page 3)

heless, there has always been a commitment to see the problems out. This commitment has been seen on the part of both government and the grower.

For example, following difficulties experienced after the purchase of the Gregg's Factory, government paid for dumped pineapples until the factory could be brought back into production or a new market found.

Some argue that Atiu needs that kind of support again until some means of transportation can be found.

Those who take that view point to current prices and an industry which the Atiuan farmer knows.

The prospect in sight they claim, is the age-old renewal of the Cook Islands syndrome- "scrap it and try something else..." !

One solution tried by some growers indicates that this process is already in operation.

One former major pineapple grower has found an alternative in growing yams on former pineapple land.

He sent over 300 sacks in a recent shipment to Rarotonga - a huge increase on previous quantities of this crop.

The return from NZ will be eagerly awaited. Based upon the price obtained from the first and smaller shipment, if the market has the capacity to absorb such a huge volume, the return could be as high as $15000.

Warning sounds come to the ears of those who remember the debacle of the Arorangi Growers Association's massive shipment of Atiu taro to the NZ Christmas market as a lesson that all markets have their limits!

The market rules set then still apply, of course, (spread production to maintain high prices lest one low price caused by flooding the market can discourage the grower and lead to a market resistance against paying a high price again) and those eager to seek alternative crops could find themselves repeating yet another age-old CIs. problem - the failure to recognise that markets set their own rules and wish-fulfilment is not one of them!

— a close look at some issues

Perhaps it's us doing a spot of wish-fulfilment ouselves but we are able to detect ideological strands running through the pattern of pineapple development which may be of assistance to those wishing to understand the problems facing all involved in the current crisis.

The same ideological strands, we claim form the apptern of much of contemporary economic development in coalition times.

The JOURNAL's editorial position can be clearly identified during the analysis which follows. It is not necessarily the same stance in its entirety as that held by staff members or by readers and subscribers. But, since the JOURNAL is not an overtly propagandist publication, we welcome diversity of opinion as a prelude to what we do feel is a major task for those privileged to be among the nation's educated, to increase our people's understanding of the complex issues which affect their lives today.

As Mao noted, "it is the task of the educated to articulate for the peasant the truths he has known from the beginning of time."

So, no apologies for tackling our pine apple problems at an ideological level. And, to those who will surely claim that the grower will not understand... maybe! And, if that IS true, then number one problem is perceived!

So...here goes with what amounts to, in the context of our national media history a fairly hard-hitting analysis.

We offer it in the belief that the question of the decline of our pineapple industry concerns ordinary citizens' lives and livelihoods - as firmly under the control of Rarotongan administrators, wealthy immigrants and outside forces as it ever was under the colonial regime. And anything which affects the livelihoods of ordinary CIs. citizens merits frankness and honesty.

(ctd....Page 5)

PROFILE

The Philippines PINEAPPLE

Year	pineapple in syrup Quantity (x 1,000 tonnes)	pineapple in syrup FOB value (million U.S. $)	pineapple juice Quantity (x 1,000 tonnes)	pineapple juice FOB value (million U.S. $)	pineapple concentrate Quantity (x 1,000 tonnes)	pineapple concentrate FOB value (million U.S. $)	TOTAL F O B Value
1969	47.6	10.9	9.9	0.9	5.6	1.4	13.2
1970	86.4	21.7	11.8	1.2	11.3	3.0	26.0
1971	104.0	25.3	13.7	1.4	12.9	3.5	30.2
1972	108.3	22.7	11.3	1.0	9.5	2.3	25.9
1973	90.9	19.7	10.6	0.9	9.8	2.2	22.8
1974	125.3	30.6	13.4	1.4	10.2	2.6	34.7

Table 2. Philippine export of fresh pineapple
(After Valmayor et al. 1971 and NEDA, 1974).

Year	Volume (tonnes)	Value (U.S $)
1961	84	6.1
1962	36	2.5
1963	36	2
1964	n.a.	n.a.
1965	57	3.2
1966	1,007	56.1
1967	n.a.	n.a.
1968	582	39.6
1969	1,596	117.8
1970	2,616	129
1971	5,830	199,407
1972	9,434	358,980
1973	10,292	375,751
1974	28,574	1,232,189

The above figures, relating to the mass pineapple production of one of our "rivals" cover the period when our own industry was rising to a peak. Since then, the Phillippines industry has steadily increased its expertise, knowledge, production and efficiency. We, in the meanwhile, have witnessed the "industry" in decline.

Our survey in this issue outlines the combination of factors which have led to this decline...factors which we see grouped in two broad categories - industrial (wage rates and value expectations; soil; techniques and transportation), and politico-economic (industrial and social structures, political structures and the income structure of the extended family economic unit within which our growers operate).

We see the former category, in which a vast amount of energy, expertise and money has been expended over the past 25 years) as dependent upon the second (upon which no study has been conducted ever). Lessons can be drawn in this area from our competitors which we shall look at next week.

Atiu Pineapples when things were going well in 1983. A profound investigation is currently being mounted in order to attempt a recovery of the former No. 1 export.

(from Page 4)

Following classic political analysis, three clear ideological stances can be observed in the various approaches to the pineapple industry problems. Each offers a different strategy for the solution of the issues involved.

A "far right", a "liberal centre" and a "hard left" can be detected. Each of the former two offer short-term solutions. They frequently contradict each other. Hence the confusion of the grower. Hence his despair, for each "camp" has its share of authoritative leaders who demand his allegiance, sometimes culturally, sometimes, socially, sometimes professionally and sometimes all three at the same time! The solutions offered by the "left" (both "soft" and "hard" varieties would not confuse him, nor provoke the social and cultural confrontations he continually meets when confronted by liberal or "hard right" solutions.....the one asks him frequently to alter his pattern of existence or to defy his social, cultural or political leaders, the other frequently asks him to deny his instinctive feeling that the liberals "sound" right!

Where do we go from here?

THE FAR RIGHT:

Conservative elements see very little cause for "despair". They approve the present broad structure of agriculture and view pineapples as but one element within an overall structure which is working well and offering a comfortable living comprising. The value (in the economics understanding of the term) they place upon their labour and/or personal investments is high by island standards and is paid for by public service jobs, political patronage, strategic land tenure and economic advantages across a broad range which stems from these. As has been witnessed by their phoenix-like re-emergence from the ELI collapse (for which they were totally responsible and from which they emerged unscathed economically), the present structure of Agricultural activity works well for the members of the far right. They are likely to exercise considerable authority over the activities of the emerging vanilla and ADC operations. They are well-equipped, through access to information, frequency of external travel, contact with government etc. to cope with periodic collapses by being (structurally) ahead of the field in seizing upon short-term alternatives.

Significantly, neither the Mangaia Growers Association nor ELI's collapses hurt the far right...just the small grower. At times suspected (like any good entrepreneur!) of engineering collapses on some islands, the far right has little need or desire to tinker with the structure. After all, the structure was designed by the conservative class which has always held the power to alter it if needed.

What has resulted from this structure is 86 years of "schemes" which come and go with the passing winds of fortune and bring tears to the trembling eyelids of despairing liberals who observe the process.

Why does the process go on ? Simple. Because it works!

For the far right. Any other process, any other structure would bring considerable disadvantage to conservative forces and usher in a whole nouvelle vague of jumped-up AML's and Gemi Services requiring neither tradition, culture nor government for their successful channelling of the island's wealth in their direction.

The far right have acquired the services of a hard-working and talented foreign entrepreneur. Neither side appear to quite realise what they have let each other in for and it will be interesting to observe which cracks first... ..the far right under pressure from a manager requiring ongoing efficiency (which at the risk of a heart attack, he might manage by cutting them all out and doing everything himself)...or Mr. Manske under pressure from conservatives who historically have depended upon a given enterprise collapsing periodically!

As for the current pineapple crisis, the far right seems to have everything under control and propose to make pineapple jam...sooner or later, for a while!

Then, there is...

The Samoan "matai" system, widely heralded as an example of enlightened conservative control. It is founded upon historical structures now made part of constitutional law. Left-wing observers point to its failure to deal successfully with far-reaching social problems in Apia and NZ and to the wide gulf existing between Samoan rich and poor.

THE LIBERAL CENTRE

They ARE panicking. They are holding meetings - a sure sign agriculture's got problems (otherwise everyone would be too busy planting to hold meetings).

They DO want to do something about the situation. They want to tinker with it so as to get over the short term-crisis. "Government", they scream (as always), ignoring the fact that the far right has government by the short and curlies (as always). They could try crawling to the far right...but liberal sensitivities preclude this. Their liberal ill-discipline prevents them coming to grips with the need to manipulate a remote, no-resource island the markets couldn't give a stuff about to their own advantage...like the far right do. So they end up with ¼ acre sections all over the place upon which to broadcast their time-honoured cry of "send us a boat, Norman...or Papa Ta ...or Papa Vainerere and so forth.

They, too, have enrolled the assistance of a talented, hard-working entrepreneur from over the reef. Again, it will be interesting to see which cracks first... the liberal centre under pressure to rectify 1000 years of cowardice in the face of the far right ...or the entrepreneur under pressure to forget it and concentrate on making a living out of them like everyone else!

The liberal centre propose to face up to the current crisis and wait for Norman and Mariri to come back from the rugby tour of New Zealand...so they can hold a meeting....

But they are all very nice people.

THE HARD LEFT

The hard left will state that there is a structural problem, so call us back when you are ready to alter the structure...which might be never, since the bolt hole of NZ obviates the need for

(ctd...Page 6)

the alteration of the structure (always a messy process and best avoided, if possible).

The departing hard left will call out a few hard left truths over the shoulder, though.

They will point out that shipping (per se) is NOT the problem; that tinkering is just consolidating the far right; that NZ had a far greater structural problem to overcome with the EEC and managed it; that Burkina Faso is making minced-meat out of problems which begin a zillion stages back from the simple problems of ocean transport; that boats don't come because they like you; that agriculture is a low priority in development at present and that the answers are all available if you bother to put in some hard work on personal education and seek the world over for the best experts in socialist development and obey them when you've got them.

GOVERNMENT

Ah yes...then there's government.

Well...the bad news is that both sides of the house agree that Agriculture is now number three national industry, under imminent threat of being taken over by the fast-rising kikau basket trade with Costa Rica.

And the good news is that Agriculture is the backbone of the country etc.

There is strong unity on the topic we can assure you.

It is best summed up in the CIP Manifesto of 1974....

"General policy is to provide avenues through which all available resources can be developed...

"To expand and further develop the pineapple industry on Mangaia and Atiu...

"To introduce modern machinery and equipment and technology to both islands to ensure maximum output (of pineapples)...

"To promote any overseas shipping service linking the Cook Islands with other countries of the Pacific....

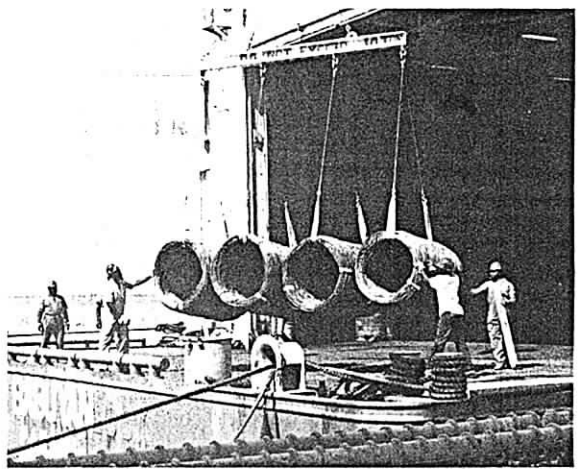
See, nothing to worry about! For government, that is!

CONCLUSION

The hard left will go away. The liberal centre will cry. And the far right will absorb everything into its structure...and win.

In practical terms, government will lob in a bit of temporary support pending the arrival of ADC and lots of jam ..as a result of which the liberal centre will complain about prices and ask government for a price support until the business establishes itself and so on.

The small farmer will continue to place a low value on his labour as dictated by the structure of Atiuan (and Outer Islands) economic activity.



"The problem of low trade volume and high transportation costs does not exist in reality: once there is demand... transportation costs will disappear"

(photo: The Courier)

An expert will arrive and suggest they grow monkey nuts.

QUOTES

"Local entrepreneurs have to obey (economic) laws if they do not want to be cut off from private and public capital markets."

"Government tariffs play an important role as an instrument of industrialisation policy"

"The often cited chicken-and-egg problem of low trade-volume and high transportation costs does not exist in reality."

-The Kiel Study by EEC on trade development.

"Our country, in spite of its feeble means intends going in for maximum diversification of its export production and creating industrial processing units and boosting export organisation and structures from back-up for the producer to marketing on our main consumer markets through a cash stabilisation fund."

-Government of the Comoros Islands, a nation, although larger, with similar problems to cur own.

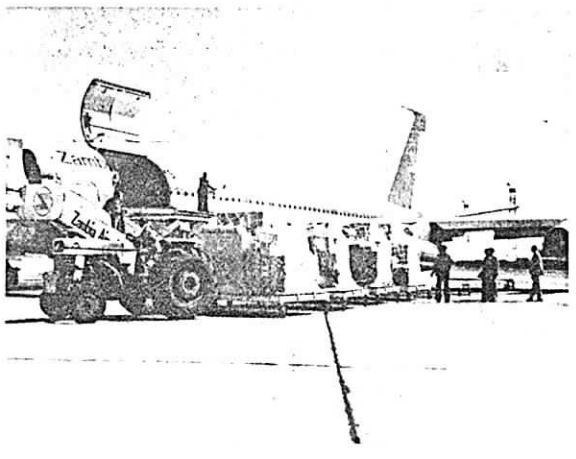
By and large, the above quotes would be echoed by both entrepreneurs from overseas resident in Atiu.

Both appear to arrive at similar economic conclusions from different standpoints.

Neither, we believe, are likely to see their hopes (nor similar ones on the part of government) materialise whilst the islands economy operates within a structure, which, although defying every economic principle known to mankind (viz. the encouragement of collapse) nevertheless offers considerable advantages to those few in a position to manipulate it to their advantage.

NEXT WEEK:

Co-Operatives...international authorities give their views on why they fail and how they can be made to work.



"There is only one transportation medium, that is air transport, in which ACP countries are not in a worse situation than other developing countries"

(photo: The Courier)

Open to all

AML

AFTER WORK
WEEK-ENDS
TONIGHT

WELCOME

AN ISLAND LETTER

"to all well-regulated families"
The Spectator, No. 10, Monday, March 12, 1711

Essay

In the primordial days pre-Coalition, picking at the last few cabin bread crumbs washed down with the final bottle of Post Office gin, life was on the rugged side in the Outer Islands. Albert may have felt it was good for the soul but in reality it was fairly rough on the digestion.

One was inclined to lie awake far into the ungenerator'd early morning hours, idly flicking the wave bands for the latest up-date on how things were shaping up on the Mongolian border or the pure ngutuare from Radio Tashkent.

Every now and again, you could stumble across a repeat of a 1958 re-run of a Sherlock Holmes mystery from the BBC.

All over the world, programme planners seemed to go for the Sherlock Holmes reruns. There was a time, it seemed, when the whole of the 3rd world appeared to go to sleep to the sound of Sherlock explaining Things that Should Have Been Obvious to dopy Dr Watson with the paternal patience of a Peace Corps volunteer telling a Tutsi how to build a mud-brick combined harvestor.

Much profound 3 a.m. philosophy was on offer from the Super Sleuth and some of its inner truth assisted when one awoke to the daily task of making sense out of a quite demonstrably ludicrous existence.

"When you have eliminated the impossible, my dear Watson," would come the message interspersed with static bleeps and roars from the Mongolian frontline or the live broadcast from the Peruvian interrogation centre, ..."whatever is left, however improbable, must be the truth."

Thus, the daily tussle with the incomprehensible could be enlivened by a determined analysis of the impossible....in the unlikely hope of discovering what is, however improbable, the truth.

It IS impossible that a nation such as ours should devote itself with islamic enthusiasm to corporate suicide for a century of scatterbrained economic schemes inspired by anyone from Washington to Ouagadougou who happens to drop off on the beach with a good idea at the time.

In which case, according to the good and great Sleuth of the midnight airwaves, what is left, however improbable, must be the truth.

Economic chaos and perpetually abandoned loony schemes flourish because they enable our feudal power structure of deacons, chiefs, kopu tangata godfathers, Paramount Politicos and their imported shock troop investors, UN experts, Anthropology PhD's, wandering yachties and probably the CIA to maintain themselves in the manner they've grown accustomed to.

And the homeless, the poor, the destitute and the illiterate, the impoverished the ign-

orant and the drunks, the obese and the child-bashers, to say nothing of the job-beggars, the hired squealers and the plain frightened exist because they are required to exist. And without them, the whole pinex and cardboard structure of invented history, coined culture and rule-book religion would go toppling off the edge of the reef like a re-born TLT aid project.

It's all highly improbable but...since the impossible has been eliminated, what's left MUST be the truth, bro'. Things are as they are because those who have the means to alter the structure (the traditional, religious and elected leaders) like things the way they are and those who remain here find it suits their purposes.

Elementary...

- Adieu -

We try to leave the weddings, hair-cuttings 21sts and farewells to others to cover. But on a recent visit to Raro, we learnt of a farewell which we reckon is a bit sad and, because of the quality of the people involved, should be a full news item.

Popular Rarotonga personalities and owners of "ISLANDS CRAFTS", Marie and Don Melvin are reported to be planning to leave the country for NZ.

Although they will leave behind plenty of family ties to come back to, they will leave a big gap. Part of the gap will be filled by the regular sight throughout the country of the vast number of trophies gracing clubs, meeting houses and homes carved with taste and imagination by Don. Perhaps even deeper in the memory will be the little-publicised collossal impact Marie had upon the organisation of the Mini-Games as Organiser of all Accommodation and the Games Village - a task which took her 18 voluntary months and which some had deemed beyond the country's ability to manage. We will miss them and, like others, for a change of plans.

What if?

..you're a writer with something to say.

Send it to us. If it's good, the JOURNAL pays the best freelance rates in the country.

Articles, essays, humour, news and reports.. SUBMIT with s.a.e. to:

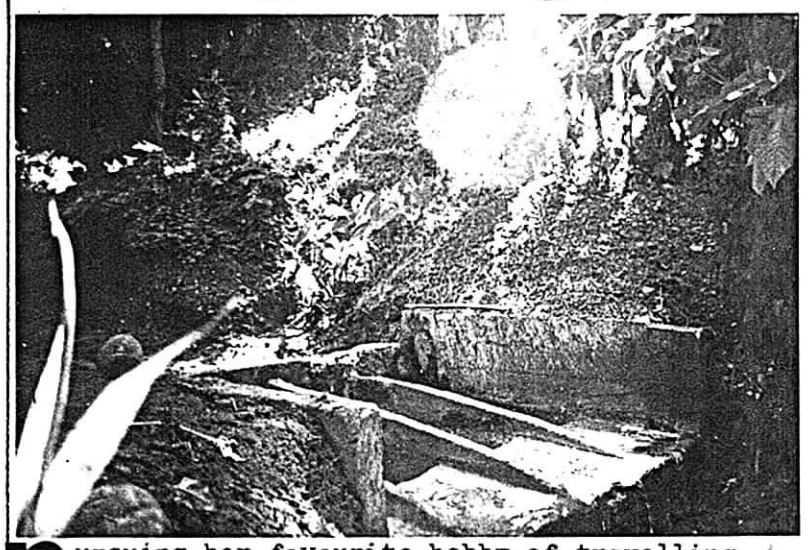
THE EDITOR,
JOURNAL
P.O. ATIU

Atiu Motel...

Your Host and Hostess
- Dr Roger and Kura Malcolm
Guides
- Taio, Tangi, Vaine and Aukinc

NEWSVIEW
Events and Trends

Don't get caught out



Pursuing her favourite hobby of travelling around and taking a pictorial record of Atiu and its day-to-day events, JOURNAL photographer Joy Duplessis came across this mysterious scene (above). With its deep shadows, dense tropical foliage and bright shafts of sunlight penetrating the panoply of green, one could be forgiven for imagining a ruined ancient temple. In fact, it is a far more down-to-earth artefact...the traditional Te Enui bath! Cleaned up and repaired by men from the village, the bath is felt to be needed in view of the severe water shortage in town.

Te nuti o ao toku au

Sory to orl my fans for mising last week. Blam the editer. He has paid me now alls well.

mon - The Minester came and whent back on Wensday
Tue - Their is a commpertion in the Atiu Jounal
Wen - We were tort to play rugbe
Thur - I dont like writing in maori.
Fri - It is a fast week
Sat - My father kite a tikopio
mon - our school went from 8.00 to 1.00
Tue - The plane came and it shouldent come
wed - ~~My father whent to Rarotonga to order things for the boat~~
Thu - Lost and found the pruning saw is lost and I do not know what it looks like
Fri - Mirss Tanga went to Rarotonga
Sat - I ran to the beach and had a swim full
wed - Tumaru is the ~~fool~~ captain and I am the wise captain

(from our Aviation Co-Respondent)

Nous notes avec astounding respect le Grand Arrival of un nouveau Imitation Learjet Executive Mixer purchased by the remarquable local trcisome of Gaston Schmitt, Marcel Hockoff and St. Bernard le Badinage. Il est understood that le CIA sont countering avec un executive Brittain Islander avec les sequin-encrusted parachutes. Both luxury additions to le local airwaves are pas pour le riff-raff comme nous mais have been dedicated to le new Rakahanga-Panama shuttle service.

LEFT: Local Mogul Gaston Schmitt opens a recent door.

(Aero-Spatiale Weekly)

Home

Internal Affairs Officer John Tangi was recently in Atiu (left) to give support to the highly successful Youth Conference. John is working at Regional Level now amongst a tiny CIs. professional community in Noumea at the SP Commission. During his stay he was able to address Atiu College students upon recent Regional Developments and brought up to date news of the troubled French territory in which he works.

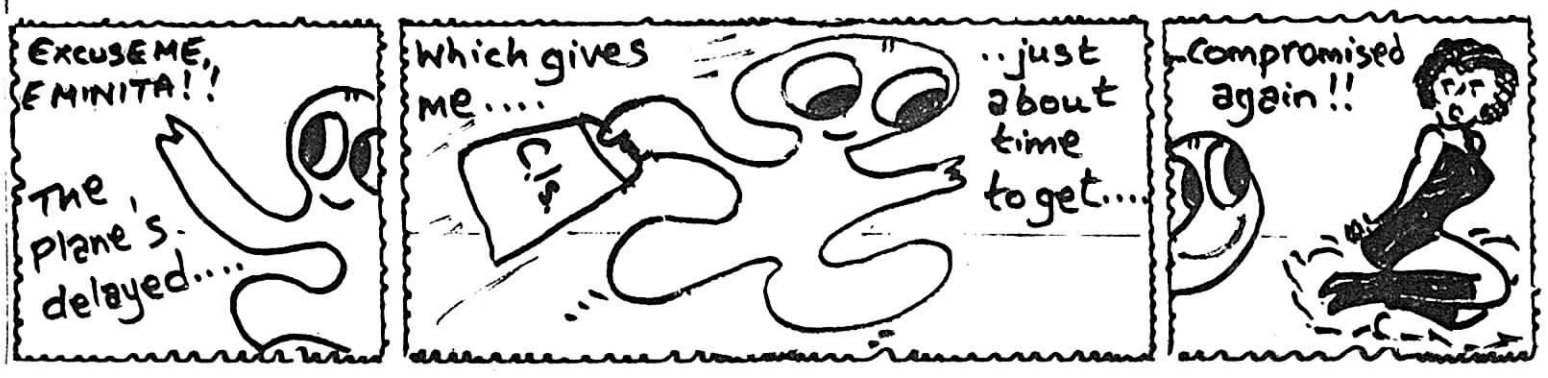
Power Play

Long-time friend of the Cook Islands, Sir Joh Bjelke-Pedersen (right) announced his retirement as Premier of Queensland in a shock speech to National supporters last week. The 76 year old conservative has held office for over 20 years but in the last 3 weeks has been under enormous attack from his party members who threatened a dismissal by vote. Sir Joh will carry on until August 1988. His demise follows a controversial failed bid for national office in the recent Australian general election.

Sir Joh Bjelke -Petersen

The quORums an everyday tale of political folk

TEKOPO

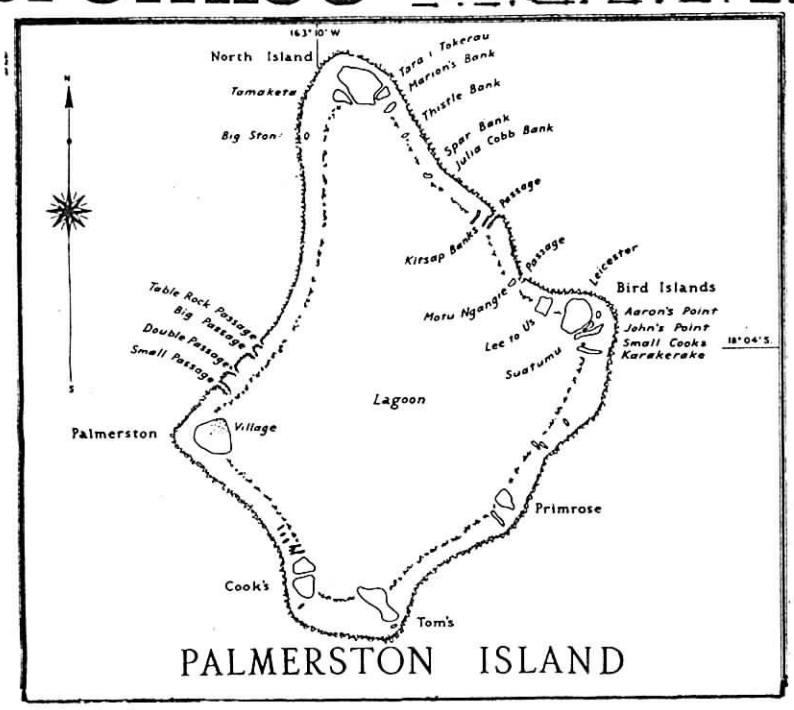


Rural Development

Making good a promise

It's a great story. In fact, Rev. Bill Marsters' recent orbital aid trip into the diplomatic stratosphere up there in Wellington is as good a tale as any of the Marsters mariners have told in the century or more since they took root on their tiny N. Group atoll.

It's a tale of governmental villains, bureaucratic pirates and one self-appointed hero, the shanty-singing, up-and-at-'em lads, Reverend Bill...repelling boarders from Palmerston to Wellington and back.



PALMERSTON ISLAND

When we first came across the story, it seemed pretty interesting...a sound inside pages piece on a fresh approach to development for an Outer Island.

Then we met the Rev. Bill himself, singing shanties under the stars and cursing the bureaucrats who control the development of his island. Then, we got some more details from Bill, some facts and figures. And by the end, we knew we had a story that will fascinate all who love the Cook Islands and the rich personalities who make up our people.

It begins "When the government robbed me...." and the rest will be all yours NEXT WEEK!!!

INTERVIEW

MARK SCOTT
(Freelance Journalist)

They are the bêtes noires of the local writer. They arrive pentaxed to the eyebrows, nikkomatted, cannoned and lapel miked, with equipment worth more than an average CIBNC annual salary. They operate without work permits, demand freedoms of access denied any local writer, stride down the corridors of power where the blood of this morning's reprimanded reporter is spattered on the walls and, having devoted a week's attention to discovering when the next vote of no-confidence is due, depart for Noumea or Suva or Rongelap, casually vacuuming the beach of every saleable story around on their way out.

They are the overseas freelancers, counting up their deportation orders like so many 3rd world purple hearts.

It is a comforting image to live with. A nice plasticine stereotype to stick quill pins in when the developing world gets just that little bit extra-underdeveloped to live with.

Mark Scott dismantles the image step by step...or rather, hour by hour, as one talks to him and forgets one is talking to a working journalist for whom today is your problem, tomorrow is someone else's a thousand miles away.

He already has some notable successes to his name as a young writer specialising in the Pacific and in NZ social issues. His NZ work on education, particularly, is reportedly much respected. He has also covered the New Caledonia scene where he encountered the "venemous" distaste French officials have for the anglo-saxon media. And, of more interest to the Cook Islands, he has covered the less glamorous Niue.

His task this time was to try to work out how "the Cook Islands works".

His interest lay in the operation of the structures within which our people work out their economic destiny. The eventual article will have led him through a wide-ranging series of interviews-from a struggling planter placing an astonishing personal economic value on his wish to live in Atiu to top political and departmental leaders in Rarotonga.

The result, we believe, will scratch the surface of our lives much deeper than others we have met will have been able to. It will be the work of a genuinely concerned writer with a valuable contribution to make to the Region.

He's a rare one we should open doors to. NZ readers are lucky to read him.

SPORT

THE GAMES

Question marks in plenty

With the South Pacific Games situation altering from week to week in terms of participation, we have delayed again our survey of the question of what purpose is served by our attendance. Former National Rugby coach Terry Hagan, in a perceptive essay in this month's SEARCH raised a question which transcends the old debate about sport and politics. Are, in fact, many of our teams even worth spending money on. This too we will consider in the light of what appears to be emerging as a disastrous SPG in December. Meanwhile see page 15!!!

LEAGUE

Mission possible

The departure of MOW apprentice Silver Puruto and unemployed Tere Henry from Atiu last week was a sporting voyage increasingly undertaken by Pacific Islanders with a flair for Rugby League.

The two 19 year olds were stepping up a grade. Taking the next step. Selected by National Coach John Rasmussen, the young local stars from go-ahead Areora club are due to have a full season on loan to Rarotonga League's Nikao Lions.

It is an old story in League.

The sport is undoubtedly the best structure world game in terms of advantaging Pacific Islanders.

There are no club ties to wear. No old boy backs to slap. No cloying tradition to break into. In fact, Rugby League, the no-class, workingman's Saturday afternoon ritual from the North of England, has erupted in the Southern Hemisphere as THE Pacific Game, and, above all, THE Pacific Islander's game.

Looking back at the history of the code, it is now easy to see that Pacific League was fortunate to import elements of the game which guaranteed its appeal to the Pacific Islands sportsman.

Mistakenly, we feel, observers make facile judgements about "love of contact" or even "innate violence" as aspects of the game which appeal to Islands sportsmen.

Time and again, as we continue this series, however, will be noted what we feel are the more important, deeper reasons for the game's appeal.

One was the very basis of Silver and Tere' departure. If you've got a bit of talent, League uniquely offers an open-ended prospect of personal development - a chance to break free!

(to be continued)

vindication

Undoubtedly, in many minds, the greatest single achievement by the Cook Islands people (businesses, workers, planners, adminstrators, politicians and taxpayers!) was the 1985 National Stadium.

Reports had reached us that the repairs and maintenance programme for the $1¼ million complex was inadequate and that massive deterioration had set in.

Vindication of the $1m plus spent in building the National stadium has always been the sheer pleasure felt by the people in attending an evening out at "The Stadium"...whether it be a family outing for the Red-Reds (above) or a ministerial duty (left).

We approached Minister of Sports, Teariki Matenga, to discover his views and were relieved by the Minister's confident assertion that he was more than satisfied with maintenance and considered the stadium in "excellent condition."

Atiu Motel

Sponsors of the

4th ATIU TENNIS championship

24 Oct — 21 Nov

INVITE ALL TENNIS PLAYERS TO ENTER in either the -

MENS SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP
WOMENS SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

or the -

MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP.

*** $ 150 in PRIZE MONEY ***

Games will be arranged at times to suit both players but all matches must be completed before the 14 th November 1987.

Entry fee 50c

Contact-

Kapao Kapao — Te Ngatangi, Teenui, Mapumai.

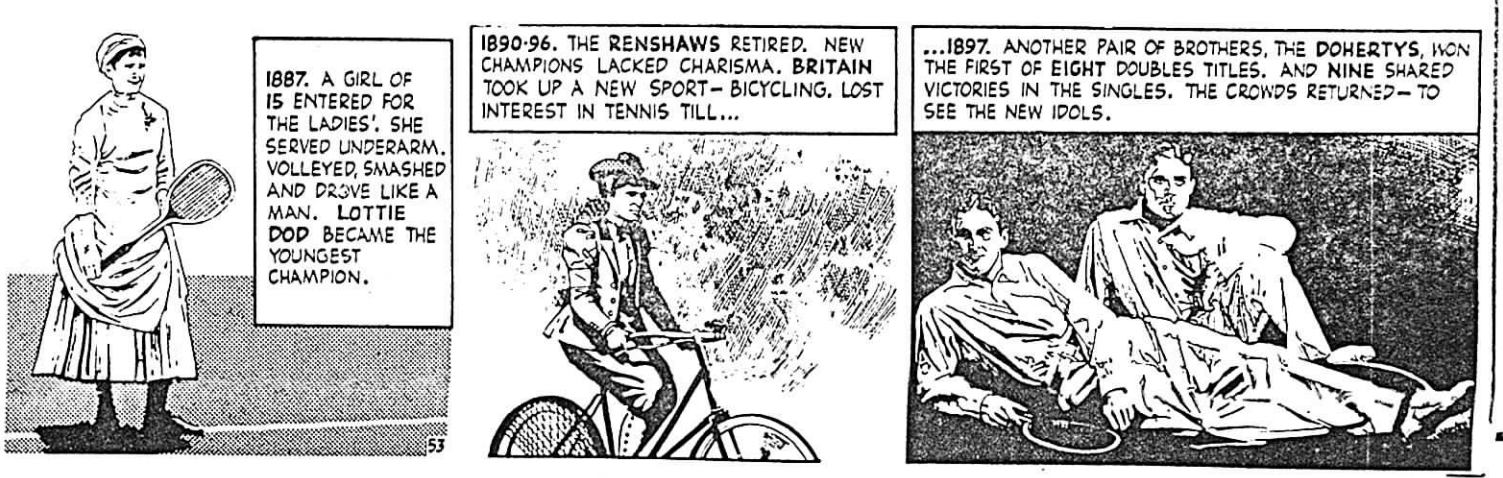
John Akava — Ngatiarua, Areora.

A BBQ and invitation Tennis match between the Atiu Champions and June and Brian Baudinet, former Cook Islands Champions, weather permitting, will be held on -

Saturday 21 November
at 2 pm

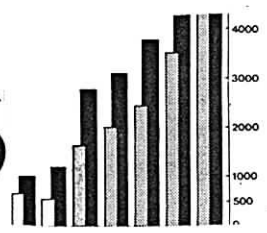
ENTRIES CLOSE 26 OCTOBER

Victorian tennis idols (Continuing our weekly series on the history of tennis)


1887. A GIRL OF 15 ENTERED FOR THE LADIES'. SHE SERVED UNDERARM, VOLLEYED, SMASHED AND DROVE LIKE A MAN. LOTTIE DOD BECAME THE YOUNGEST CHAMPION.
1890-96. THE RENSHAWS RETIRED. NEW CHAMPIONS LACKED CHARISMA. BRITAIN TOOK UP A NEW SPORT – BICYCLING. LOST INTEREST IN TENNIS TILL...
...1897. ANOTHER PAIR OF BROTHERS, THE DOHERTYS, WON THE FIRST OF EIGHT DOUBLES TITLES. AND NINE SHARED VICTORIES IN THE SINGLES. THE CROWDS RETURNED – TO SEE THE NEW IDOLS.

LIFE OF FACTS

unv

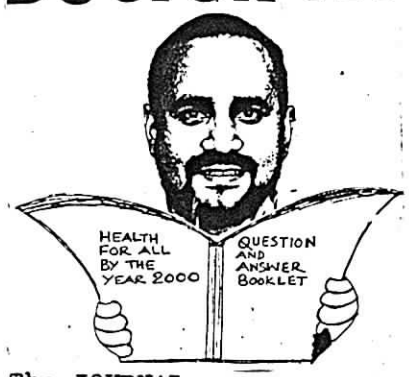


All in the Family

Highly qualified United Nations Volunteers from The Gambia (left) and Sri Lanka (Centre) link up with fellow UNV Surresh Vatsyayann (right) from India. Surresh's two colleague's are both attached to EPS. Mr. I. Cham is also a former High Jump champion of the Gambia and Africa Games, Commonwealth Games and All-Africa representative.

DEAR DOCTOR ...

— Medicine —



The JOURNAL expresses its great appreciation to Drs. Surresh & Subhash Vatsyayann and the invaluable UNV Aid Organisation for their regular contributions as part of their CIs. Health Department Public Information.

QUESTION

Dear Doctor,
-Please can you tell us about the effect of coffee and similar drinks upon us ?
Who should avoid these and how much is the limit?

Dear Reader:

-Tea contains caffeine and theophylline. Coffee contains caffeine. Cocoa contains caffeine and theobromine. Cola contains caffeine. Theobromine is of weak and is of no medical interest needing discussion. Theophylline in tea gives some bronchodialating effects in asthma cases.

-both caffeine and theophylline stimulate mental activity. Thought is quickened and fatigue is delayed or removed. Effects on physical or mental performance vary according to the state and personality of the person. To a per- with excessive anxiety tea and/or coffee may worsen his performance. The physical and intellectual performance of a normal person, if fatigued or bored, is improved by tea or coffee. Feelings of alertness, well-being and exhileration may be induced.

-The onset of boredom, fatigue, inattentiveness and sleepiness is postponed by caffeine. BUT...an overdose can cause anxiety, tension, tremors and will reduce performance. In the long run, dependence and psychotic states may occur.

-In older people, sleep is delayed, bodily movements are increased, total sleeptime is reduced and there is an increase in awakenings during the course of a single sleep.

-Acid secretion in the stomach is increased (this may reactivate a peptic ulcer).

SO...dear Reader,

As no one ever drinks cocoa to excess, it is harmless but tea and coffee to excess can make people tense and anxious and can cause an exacerbation of a peptic ulcer. COLA DRINKS, TEA AND COFFEE SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN REALLY TO YOUNG CHILDREN UP TO 15-16 YEARS OF AGE.

These may destroy fast growing brain cells making a child's mind duller due to the overactivity and eventual death of the cells.

Also, tea and coffee are required normally after tiring physical or mental effort. So they should be used after such work in the afternoons etc rather than taken in the early morning when the body is already relaxed and fresh to work on its own.

A heavy user is one who takes more than 5 cups of coffee (100 to 150 mg caffeine per cup) or 12 cups of tea (40mg caffeine per cup of tea) or a combination thereof taking 500-800mg of caffeine per day.

Such heavy users will have anxiety, restlessness, tremors, insomnia, headaches, heart problems and confusion with diarrhoea (coffe) or constipation (tea).

LOOK

CORIANDER

(Dhania)

This flavouring herb does not only impart taste to curries, salads and other cooked meals but is also a mild digestant.

As well of this, it is an antacid, antiflatulant and stimulates the liver to ensure proper functioning.

Excessive production of gas when on high protein diets (meat etc.)is controlled by using the herb in food preparation.

It also helps to remove burning sensations in the upper part of the abdomen. It improves digestion by stimulating the liver and the gall bladder, helping to ensure that they function properly.

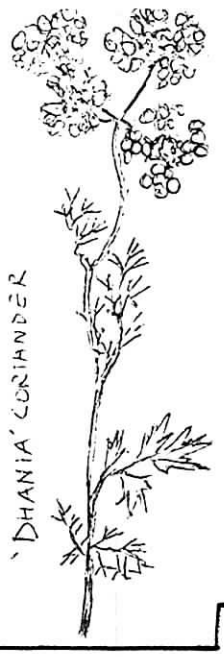
It also stimulates appetite.

Fresh leaves can be crushed to make chutney or can be put into curries or can be sprinkled on other preparations. The dried, ground seeds are an important ingredient of curry powders.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE: How to make curry powder and how to plant the seeds."

by

Subhash Vatsyayann



20–27 OCTOBER 1987

vera

World War 6

Bullets

Vinaka

THIS PAGE IS SPONSORED BY THE JOINT TOURIST COUNCILS OF THE COOK ISLANDS AND FRENCH POLYNESIA.

popular tourist spots...

Why not drop in at "THE BARRACKS"..Suva's hottest nite spot just opened! Have a nice long relaxed scream when you visit the Sitiveni Cells... ...more bars than you've ever seen before!!!

THIS WEEK ONLY:

Cabaret- The Radio Australia Deportees WITH The Massed Choir of Headless Hindus.

bula bula! / our Island in the Gun

Welcome to Fiji

VISIT THE FAMOUS RUINS OF "PATEL, PATEL, RAMESH & DULEEP WHOLESALE GROCERS LTD."

...and after that, this super bunch of Sigatoka Fusiliers took us round their barracks and raped us!

Twice!

Round Island tour groups line up smartly over there..... at the double!

THIS ADVERTISEMENT WAS PREPARED BY THE 1ST BATTALLION OF THE REUBLICAN DEVELOPMENT CORPS WHO HAVE JUST ISSUED THEIR LATEST TOURIST PROCLAMATION ORDERING ALL TOURISTS TO VISIT FIJI IMMEDIATELY.

shopping in the heart of Suva

Choose from the largest range of famous brand names

Kalashnikov; Lee Enfield; Sherman; Garrand; Aerospatiale; Krupps; Skoda; Gatling; Exocet; Pershing; SAM; Uzi; Bazooka; Agent Orange etc.

CURRY - FREE ZONE

All clear

O my golly gosh, it's a lovely republic sir..... O my word yes!!

Oh look, Harry! A local custom!

PROCLAMATION

The Economy is ordered to recover without delay.

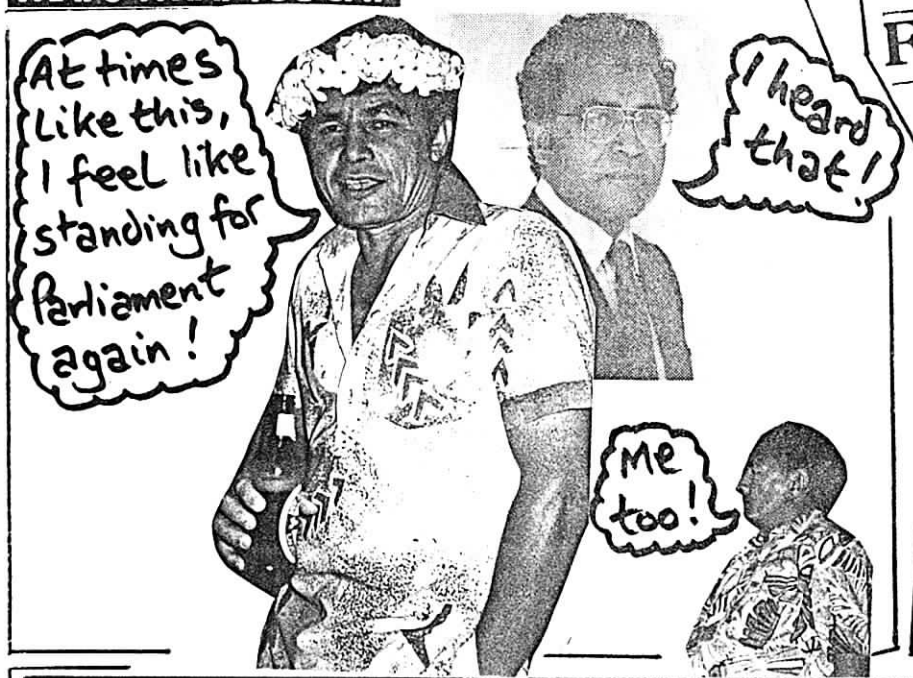
Signed... Rabo

His (Acting) Presidentialness.

Vera

WORLD WAR 6

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY



Le French View

Bon God, mais this is reellement trop much, mes fans. Je sees this comme le tres thin fin de le wedge et unless mon column est returned joli smartish to son former star billing je shall serieusement pense about giving le mighty chaque le Big Bounce, Allez to it! F.

OFFICIEL

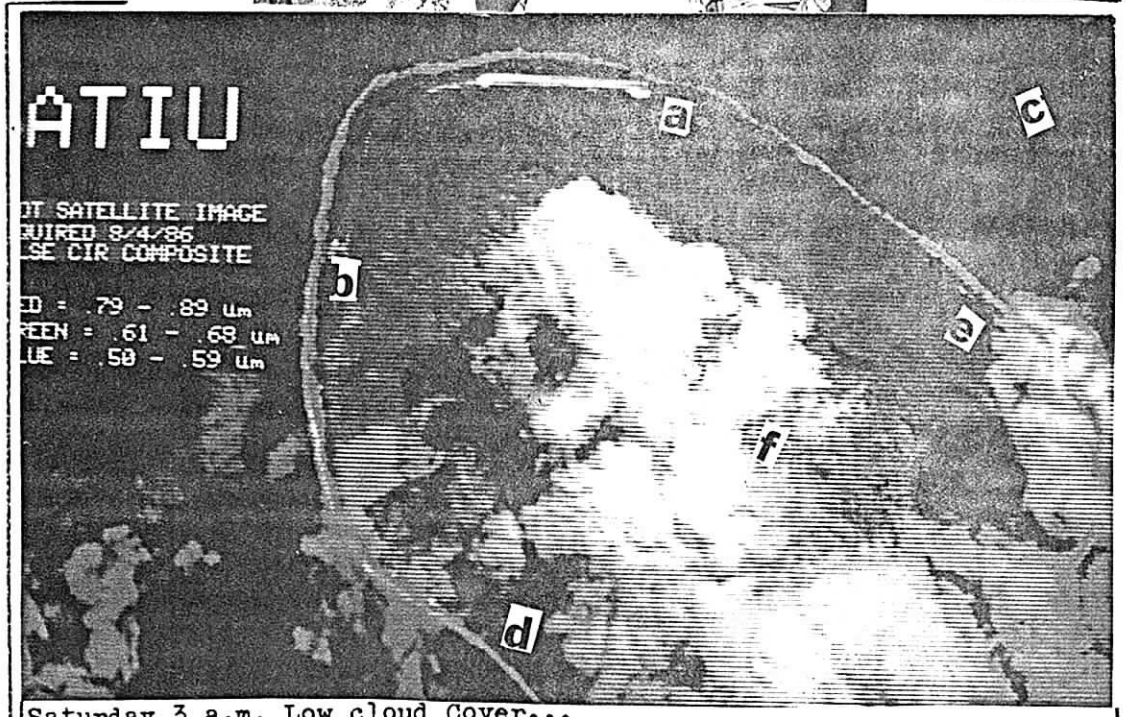
UP VOUS

WORRIED ABOUT YOUR BLEEDING INDIANS???

in a period of internal unrest.....

Rampads give you the best protection.

(Recommended by the Great Council of Chieftesses for a better Constitution)



Saturday 3 a.m. Low cloud Cover...

KEY: a...Secret meeting Demo Party; b...Secret Meeting CIP's; c...Secret meeting Vince's lot; d....Deacons' Homebrew party; e....Island Council blue movie show; f...Mr. "Classified" leaving Mrs "Top Secret's place while Mr. "Top Secret" is on course in Raro.....

"Excuse me, Minister, the latest constituency satellite scan has just arrived."
"Leave it on my desk will you, Tepou."

tums 'n Bits

I'll see you behind the mosque, inangaro!

Vera's Vaine

They tell me I have to work on my image

(A tale of our Times - abridged and serialised for the JOURNAL)

GO!

I.

Beside a swamp in N-E Truk, Frau Martha Macklestrumpet, an aging embroiderer of 34 Lagoon View Avenue, Guadalcanal, was examining her nether regions for fall-out burns with the aid of a wing mirror from her feeding son's Yamaha 725 when she was mindlessly abducted by sixteen retired netballers from the Radio Yap typing pool who were escaping the consequences of their role in the recent bloodbath at the home of the Niuean military attache in which masked Papuan hostages had blown up ninety eight OPM infiltrators in the pay of the notorious Duc de Bora Bora, interior decorator of no fixed abode, Avenue Foch, Papeete IV when she.....

—— But that's another story. ——

NOW READ ON:

lthough no one had ever truly believed the Paradise Games would actually take place, it was now apparent that they would.

They really were on. And it was coconuts and candy, swinging in the surf, ukeleles in the funrise, Gauguin prints and angel fish. All the way from Raro to Rent-a-Rape, Honolulu, from megatonnaged Muroroa to the strontium shores of Rongelap, the word went out...

The Games were on, bro'. Too late to cancel now. Far, far too late. Hammers and Rogerstein had set it all to musack. Rossano Brazzi was miming the triple jump. Mitzi Gaynor was dancing on the beach. And the South Pacific oozed to life again.

The main thing, of course, was to be there. If you weren't there, you weren't there and that was that. Missed out. No hoper.

And no one wanted that fate. Especially, since it was becoming increasingly obvious over the mid-morning petits blancs in downtown Froggville that the Games were going to represent a certain high point in the imperial frog cosmos.

The Games were to be.....

....the biggestest, the bestest, the expensivest and most staggeringestly extravagantist display of gallic grandeur since Charlemagne banged Mrs. Charlemagne to celebrate the last time France won a war.

And that, folks, was why you had to be there.

Because it was the Frogs who were putting it on. By courtesy of Monsieur le President de Tous les Frogs together with 57.000 riot-squad gendarmes disguised as usherettes to hand round the cashews and the esquimaux.

Of course, there were troublemakers in Paradise who disagreed. They were heard to exclaim that the Games were nothing more than a diversionary charade to keep the poor good people of Paradise running and jumping and hopping to the frog colonial tune while they swapped freedom for volleyball, democracy for ice dancing and votes for underwater canoe slaloms...

And maybe they were right.

Who knew ?

All anyone really knew for certain was that you had to be there.

Somewhere deep down in the soul of Paradise, old Mama Patipika herself was emerging from a beach hut in Avaiki, mightily aroused at the thought of it all.....all breasting crests and foaming peaks and swells positively a-pulsating.....exposing all her tiny emerging island nipple states all a-stirring and a-throbbing in the swirling morning mists which are the basic climatic conditions of ole Avaiki..

And all of them...so bold..so young and free and independent. So...so.....ERECT!!!

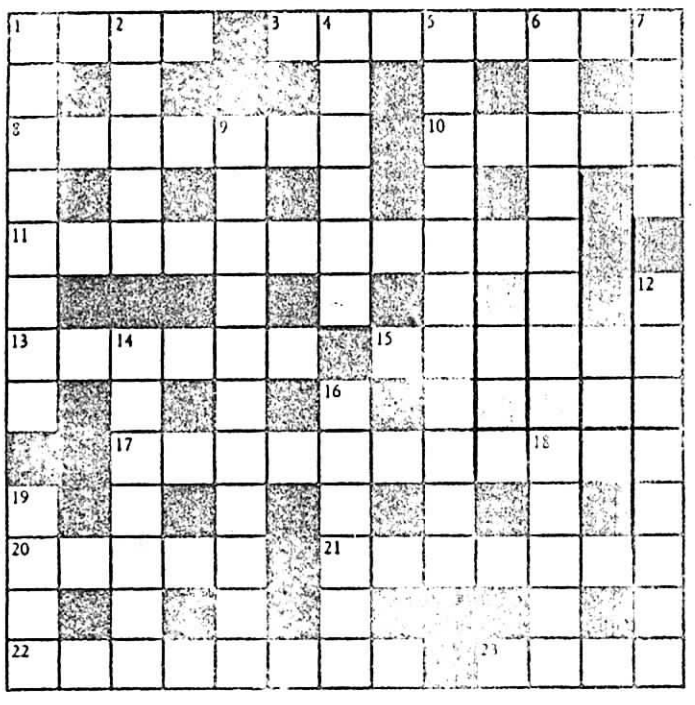
Aieeeeeeeeeeeeee!!!!!!!!

There had passed many a turquoise-tinted lost decade since Paradise had seen such excitement.

(to continue....)

All over Paradise...you just HAD to be there ...at the Paradise Games (scene from the abridged "vera" novel "GO!")

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Very young child (4)
3 Induce, convince (8)
8 Thrash, defeat (7)
10 Highways (5)
11 Prove to be useful (4, 2, 5)
13 Cream cake (6)
15 Surface on which film is projected (6)
17 Something accomplished by hard work (11)
20 Miss Harris the singer (5)
21 Mental strain or excitement (7)
22 Usual customers at pub (8)
23 Swelling on eyelid (4)

DOWN

1 Bikes (8)
2 Yellow-flowered shrub (5)
4 Unrefined, coarse (6)
5 Thoroughly tidy house at beginning of year (6-5)
6 To break down into components (7)
7 Simple (4)
9 A nationalised industry (7, 4)
12 A particular example (8)
14 Putting cargo on (7)
16 Joker of a court (6)
18 Expel tenant (5)
19 Arrange in couples (5)

THE JOURNAL & THE (Last) WORD

Sydney: 2 a.m. Friday. The Offices of Dingo, Jumbuk and Billabong, Advertising Agents Inc.

Phone rings:

DJB: Dingo, Jumbuk and Billabong. Jumbuk speaking.
SR: Suva here. Office of His Presidential Exceptionalness. Rabuka speaking.
DJB: Well.,hi there, sport. What's the problem ? Run out of bullets ?
SR: Our tourist industry is collapsing.
DJB: You can say that again.
SR: Our tourist industry is collapsing.
DJB: And how can we assist, sport ?
SR: We need a catchy slogan, quick.
DJB: It'll cost yer, blue.
SR: How much ?
DJB: For you, say...a buck a word.
SR: Done.
DJB: How about..."It may be hell but it's lots of fun" ?
SR: Lies.
DJB: It's not hell ?
SR: It's not fun.
DJB: Well..slip this in your pouch 'n see if it hops.."Unspoiled, unhurried and undemocratic".
SR: Sounds too much like the Cooks.
DJB: All right then..."It's not so bloody awful as pinko journos make it out to be."
SR: Done. Do you need cash or would you settle for a couple of second hand Lee Enfields and a bag of confiscated curry powder?

Editor

NEWS

NOTEBOOK

A busy time ahead is forecast for Acting CAO Junior Vainerere (above) as he stands in for CAO Moetaua Boaza (on tour with the Atiu Warriors Rugby team in NZ).

Rumoured to be coming up as a first move in the time honoured CAO role as a local Peace Keeping force are reported confrontations down at the harbour over the weekend occasioned by the alleged early shut-down of TLT barge operations.

NZ VSA official, Peter Brock is in Atiu currently reviewing conditions for volunteers and getting background on a Department of Education request for further VSA assistance in the 1988-9 period.

STOP PRESS

PEOPLE RESIDING IN NZ WITHOUT A RESIDENCE PERMIT MUST OBTAIN A PERMIT WITHIN THREE MONTHS OR FACE DEPORTATION. THIS WAS ANNOUNCED OVER RADIO NZ AT THE WEEKEND AND ATTRIBUTED TO NZ IMMIGRATION SOURCES.

FIJI MILITARY COUP HEAD RABUKA ANNOUNCED OVER RADIO FIJI THAT A NEW CONSTITUTION WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE GREAT COUNCIL OF CHIEFS WITHIN FOUR WEEKS.

THE VANCOUVER COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF STATE MEETING TERMINATED FIJI'S MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMONWEALTH LAST WEEK.

UNECSO HEAD AMADOU (SENEGAL) WITHDREW HIS NOMINATION FOR RE-APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR. USA & UK WHO LEFT UNESCO CLAIMING AMADOU'S LEADERSHIP AS THE PRIME CAUSE STATE THAT THEY MAY REJOIN IF THEY APPROVE NEW POLICIES.

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